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## EGYPT - SAUDI ARABIA

Strong personal criticism of Saudi leaders by Egyptian President Sadat since the Baghdad summit early this month threatens to bring relations between Egypt and Saudi Arabia to the lowest point since Sadat took power in 1970. In addition to offending the Saudis, Sadat's criticisms have heightened the Egyptians' sense of isolation and increased their concern over prospects for continued Saudi financial support for Egypt.

The tenor of Sadat's criticism goes well beyond the bounds of a disagreement between allies and betrays strong personal pique. In an interview published last week, the Egyptian President broke with his customary habit of only obliquely referring to Saudi leaders and mentioned Prince Fahd by name in the course of expressing his contempt for the participants of the Baghdad meeting. In other less direct references, Sadat accused the Saudis and also the Kuwaitis of being involved in bribery, of hoarding their money in foreign banks, and of being niggardly in their assistance to Egypt.

Articles in Egypt's controlled press have gone even further, accusing the Saudis of abandoning the "wisdom" of the late King



President Sadat

Faysal and falling under the sway of Soviet surrogates in the Arab world—a reference to Libya, Iraq, and Syria. An unattributed commentary carried by Cairo Radio's domestic service this week charged that "oil rulers" were using their money for personal gain, ignoring the real interests of their people. The broadcast predicted that their constituencies would inevitably call them to account.

Such swipes at the Saudis and Kuwaitis appear to be dangerous and counter-productive. Sadat does not need this kind of a campaign to win sympathy at home and is probably undermining domestic confidence. Of more immediate concern, his remarks will complicate efforts to gain future Saudi cooperation in the peace process.

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